

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO
City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29th Avenue
June 28, 2021

Upon adjournment of the Regular City Council Meeting, the Mayor called this Special Study Session to order at 8:24 p.m.

This meeting was conducted both as a virtual meeting and hybrid, where some members of the Council or City staff were physically present at the Municipal building, and some members of the public attended in person as well.

After calling the meeting to order, Mayor Starker stated the rules and procedures necessitated by this meeting format.

Mayor Starker welcomed the Council, other elected officials, staff and interested citizens.

The Mayor also explained the virtual/hybrid meeting format, how citizens will have the opportunity to be heard, and the procedures and policies to be followed.

Council members present Judy Hutchinson, Zach Urban, Janeece Hoppe, Korey Stites, Valerie Nosler Beck, and Rachel Hultin.

Councilmembers Weaver (traveling out of the country) and Dozeman (ill) did not attend.

Also, present: City Clerk, Steve Kirkpatrick; City Manager Patrick Goff; City Treasurer Chris Miller; Director of Administration, Allison Scheck; Chief of Police Chris Murtha; Division Chief, Jim Lorentz; Assistant to the City Manager, Marianne Schilling, guests and interested citizens.

Public's Comment on Agenda Items –

No one came forward to speak.

Note about Wheat Ridge Speaks:

Citizens may visit the Wheat Ridge Speaks website and enter written comments of up to 1,000 words on any Council agenda item. *The deadline for citizens to submit comments is 12:00 Noon Mountain Time on the day of a Council session* so that Council members, other elected officials and City Staff have time to review the comments before the meeting on Monday evening.

The City Clerk's Office transcribes those Wheat Ridge Speaks comments into these minutes, placing each comment along with the record for that agenda item, including items that include a public hearing (verbatim, if the comments do not contain lascivious language or unlawful hate speech).

There were no citizen comments entered into Wheat Ridge Speaks related to this session.

1. Hotel/Motel Licensing Program

Chief Murtha gave detailed descriptions of the calls for service and the volume of calls from our hotels and motels. The rate of service calls creates several concerns; these businesses are among the top five on the list of places where the WRPD responds to calls for service. The Chief explained how a hotel and motel licensing program would help the City and the WRPD mitigate those concerns.

Citations to appear in Municipal Court have currently proved to be ineffective because warrants to arrest violators have no effect. The County Jail is only accepting detainees who have committed violent or otherwise serious offenses. In addition, many hotels are functioning as long-term housing solutions and are not necessarily designed for that use.

The memorandum in tonight's Council packet includes an outline for a proposed hotel/motel licensing program.

Mr. Dahl and Chief Murtha gave a thorough presentation about the key findings, legal definitions, application form and eligibility requirements contemplated in a proposed ordinance.

Mr. Dahl opined about how Wheat Ridge might enact ordinances like other municipalities. He cited a new law passed in Jefferson Parish, LA. He presented an outline of possible provisions in possible legislation by Council and asked for their responses to his suggestions and their input to the process of drafting an ordinance. For instance, he highlighted questions around licensing extended stay lodging.

Councilmembers had questions and comments:

Councilmembers discussed the details of possible provisions in a hotel and motel licensing ordinance, providing Mr. Dahl and staff with clear preferences on the possible licensing requirements, metrics for license compliance and other important details.

Councilmembers also expressed support for this proposed legislation, which some believe is long overdue.

They also discussed and supported an escalating scale of notices, warnings and sanctions before imposing the ultimate sanction of suspending or revoking the business's hotel/motel license, City business license or both.

Councilmembers and staff also discussed potential connections to the homeless navigator program.

Councilmembers also asked for public information and education about this effort, both to inform residents about its impact on homelessness and impact on local lodging

businesses. Have these businesses been asked for input? Chief Murtha gave a detailed reply.

Councilmember Hoppe asked for a **consensus** to direct staff to bring forward a proposed ordinance to address licensing of hotels and motels and extended stay lodging in the City.

Consensus achieved.

2. Staff Report(s)

Nothing further at this time, since staff made reports already in tonight's Regular Council Meeting.

3. Elected Officials' Report(s)

Nothing further, as this session immediately followed a Regular Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Study Session adjourned at 9:24 pm.

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON July 12, 2021.



Steve Kirkpatrick, City Clerk



Janeece Hoppe, Mayor Pro Tem